

## **Opening Announcement before Mass about the RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE**

On this **Third SUNDAY** of Easter, we begin our Mass with **THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE. (Formerly known as Rite of Acceptance)**

This Liturgical Rite within the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for those adults in the process of studying their faith to become Catholic.

As a community, we warmly welcome those who have been inquiring about our Catholic faith. **THIS MORNING** they will be received for **FORMAL INSTRUCTION** into our **CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY**.

Our **CATECHUMENS** will prepare for **BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**.

They will now enter into the **CATECHUMENATE**, which is the longest period of their **FORMATION**.

This **RITE** replaces the **INTRODUCTORY RITES OF THE MASS**, so, there will be **NO PENITENTIAL RITE**.

As members of **THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION** involve **EACH OF ONE OF US AS PARTICIPANTS**. We ask that you **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE PARTS WHERE YOU ARE INVITED TO RESPOND**. There

Please follow along on the Small handout sheet for Mass that has been distributed to all of you. Here are the Responses:

1. **AFFIRMATION BY SPONSORS AND THE ASSEMBLY.** We are the Assembly!  
Father will say:

*"Are you (speaking of the sponsors), and all who are gathered with us- [that's the assembly, that's all of us]: ready to help them follow Christ?"*

**R. WE ARE.**

2. For the signing with the Cross, our response is:

**R. "GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST."**

Let's try it together: **"Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."**

**PLEASE STAND AND TURN TO FACE THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH AS WE BEGIN OUR CELEBRATION, AND WELCOME ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH'S INQUIRERS AS THEY ENTER THE CHURCH AS WHEN THEY LEAVE, THEY WILL BE CATECHUMENS!**

The Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate, also known as the Rite of Acceptance, is a liturgical rite within the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It marks the transition of individuals, called "inquirers," into the formal period of preparation for baptism and entry into the Catholic Church. During this rite, the inquirers publicly express their desire to be baptized and to follow Christ, and the Church, represented by the parish community, welcomes them into the Order of Catechumens.